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NO. 17
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PLASTIC MAN
LET GO OF MY PARTNER, YOU PLASTIC CREEP, OR...
...THE LADY DIES!
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BAT MAN
"THE WHOLE WORLD'S UPSIDE DOWN"
TOPSY-TURVY MAN, ARCH-VILLAIN, HAS THE ABILITY TO TURN THINGS UPSIDE DOWN.
BATMAN, YOU MUST HELP US TURN THINGS AROUND.
WHAT'S UP IS UP. WHAT'S DOWN IS DOWN EXCEPT WHEN TOPSY-TURVY'S AROUND.
I'LL GET RIGHT ON TOP OF THIS SITUATION.
SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING SEEMS TOPSY-TURVY!?!
FRUIT PIE
WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN: LOOSE CHANGE, TIGHT PAPER MONEY, ALL MINE FOR THE SCOOPING! THE BIG BONUS: ALL THOSE DELICIOUS HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES.
LOOK AT ALL THAT REAL FRUIT FILLING AND TENDER LIGHT CRUST!...
FAIR WARNING, TOPSY. I'LL BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT...
YOU CAN STAND ON YOUR HEAD, "MIGHTY" BATMAN, FOR ALL I CARE. I WANT ALL THE APPLE, CHERRY AND LEMON I CAN GET!
IF YOU CAN'T START AT THE TOP... START AT THE BOTTOM...
POW
...AND WORK YOUR WAY UP, I ALWAYS SAY.
THINGS ARE ON THE UP AND UP AGAIN.
AND MY LUSCIOUS HOSTESS FRUIT PIE IS BACK IN MY HANDS AGAIN WHERE IT BELONGS.
IT'S HARD TO BE UP WHEN YOU'RE DOWN!
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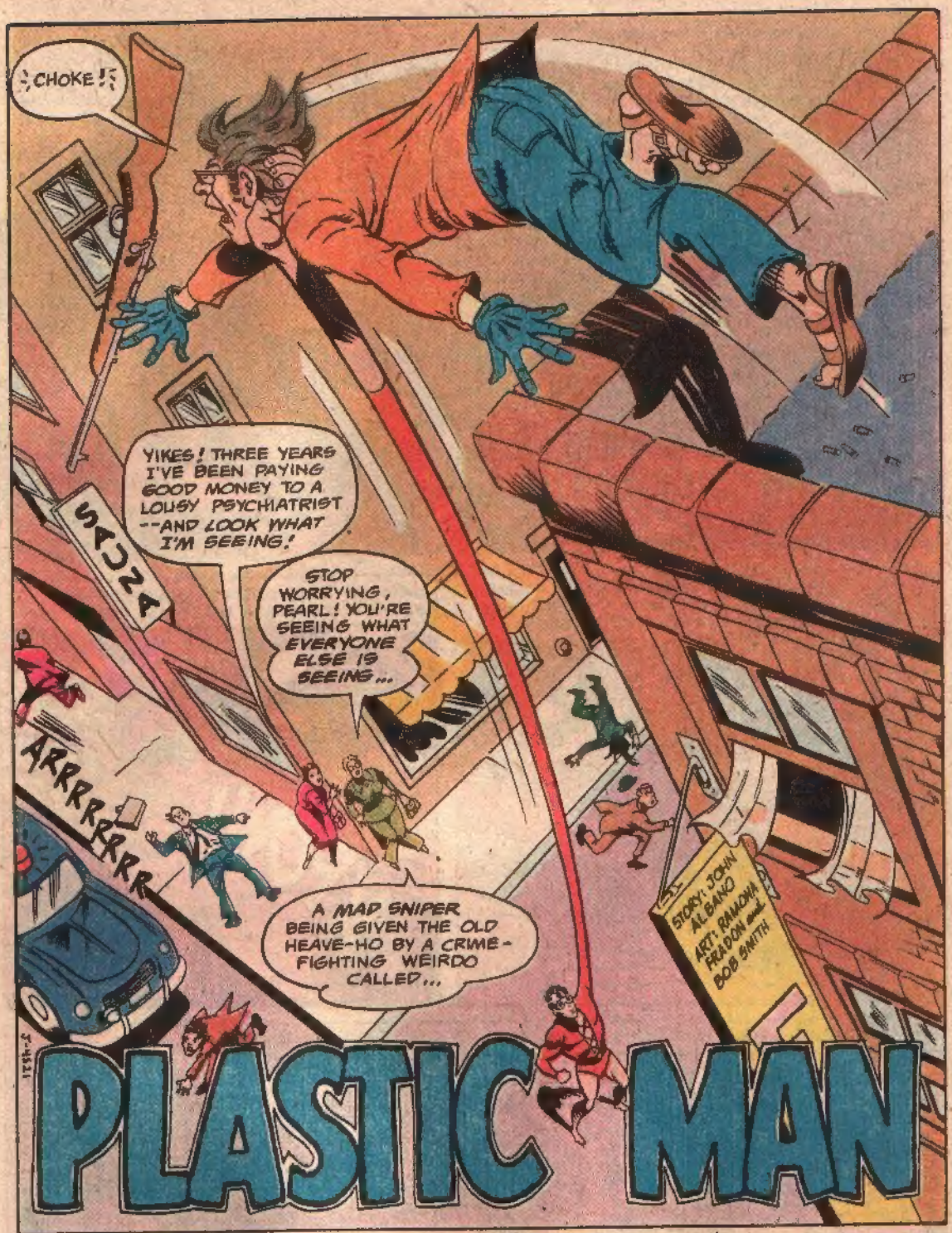
CHOKE!
YIKES! THREE YEARS I'VE BEEN PAYING GOOD MONEY TO A LOUSY PSYCHIATRIST --AND LOOK WHAT I'M SEEING!
STOP WORRYING, PEARL! YOU'RE SEEING WHAT EVERYONE ELSE IS SEEING...
ARRRRRRR
A MAD SNIPER BEING GIVEN THE OLD HEAVE-HO BY A CRIME-FIGHTING WEIRDO CALLED...
STORY: JOHN ALBANO
ART: RAMONA FRADON and BOB SMITH
PLASTIC MAN

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A MANIAC SPREADING TERROR THROUGHOUT AN ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD... HIS WEAPON CRACKLING--BODIES FALLING--BLOOD RUNNING LIKE OPENED FAUCETS... SUDDENLY A UNIQUE FIGURE APPEARS, STRETCHES HIS ARMS TO IMPOSSIBLE LENGTHS, AND SNATCHES THE CRAZED SNIPER FROM HIS ROOFTOP PERCH! AN EXTRAORDINARY FEAT--BY A VERY EXTRAORDINARY CRIME-FIGHTER--**PLASTIC MAN!**

YET, MANY YEARS BEFORE, THIS MAN OF RUBBER WAS AS RUTHLESS A LAWBREAKER AS ANY OF THOSE HE NOW STALKS! EEL O'BRIAN WAS THE NAME HE ANSWERED TO THEN, AND HIS SPECIALTY WAS CRACKING SAFES...

COME ON, EEL, MOVE IT!

THEN QUIT BREATHING, FLEA-BRAIN... NOBODY WILL MISS YOU!

COOL IT, YOU GUYS! THE HEAT IS HERE!

THIS AIR IN THIS CHEMICAL FACTORY IS KILLING ME!

EEL'S COHORTS EXCHANGED SHOTS WITH THE OFFICERS AS THEY FLED TO SAFETY--

KPOW!

BLAM!

BLAM!

LEAVING THEIR SAFECRACKING EXPERT BEHIND--TO TAKE A BULLET IN THE BACK!

ARRGG!

KPOW!

AND A MOMENT LATER, EEL O'BRIAN FELL--INTO A VAT OF ACID!!!

SPLASH!

THAT FINISHES O'BRIAN...

NOW I'D BETTER GO SEE HOW MY PARTNER IS DOING WITH THOSE OTHER TWO PUNKS!

SOMEHOW, DESPITE THE SEARING PAIN THAT ENGULFED EVERY NERVE FIBRE IN HIS BODY...

OOOH...

THE WOUNDED THUG MANAGED TO DRAG HIMSELF OUT OF THE FIERY LIQUID AND ESCAPE!

THEN, UPON AWAKING ONE MORNING -- AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF MIRACULOUS HEALING...

YAWN

HEY, WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?

I-I'M S-STRETCHING LIKE A R-RUBBER BAND--

T-THIS DOESN'T M-MAKE SENSE!

HOW--?

THE ACID!

IT MUST HAVE... GOTTEN INTO MY BLOODSTREAM... AND CAUSED A PHYSICAL CHANGE!

SNAP!

AND SO IT WAS THAT A LOWLY THIEF WAS TRANSFORMED INTO PLASTIC MAN...

AN INDIVIDUAL THAT COULD DO WITH HIS BODY WHAT SOME POLITICIANS CAN DO WITH TRUTH...HE COULD BEND, DISTORT, AND STRETCH IT BEYOND LOGIC!!

I'LL USE MY UNUSUAL ABILITIES TO FIGHT THE KIND OF RATS THAT LEFT ME BEHIND TO DIE!

STAMPS

MAIL DROP

WANTED

LATER, ANOTHER UNDERWORLD FIGURE NAMED WOOZY WOULD ALSO CHANGE SIDES --

206251

AND JOIN THE RUBBER MAN'S CRUSADE AGAINST CRIME!

THEREAFTER, THE MERE MENTION OF THE NAME PLASTIC MAN WOULD SEND CHILLS OF FEAR DOWN THE BACKS OF ALL CRIMINALS!!!

AND THE MERE MENTION OF THE NAME WOOZY WOULD BRING FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF NO ONE AT ALL.

206251

THE PRISON POPULATION INCREASED RAPIDLY AFTER PLASTIC MAN'S ENTRY INTO THE RANKS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT... YET, AS ALWAYS, FOR EVERY FELON THAT DISAPPEARED BEHIND BARS, THERE WERE OTHERS QUICKLY FILLING THE VOID...
YOUTHFUL MEN WITH TWISTED IDEOLOGIES-- USING TERROR AND VIOLENCE TO ALLEVIATE THEIR FRUSTRATIONS...
HEH! HEH! WHEN THAT THING BLOWS, EVERY BUILDING FOR MILES AROUND IS GOING TO DO A BELLY DANCE!
I WISH YOU'D TAKE OUR WORK MORE SERIOUSLY, CORPORAL!
AW, COOL IT WITH THAT CORPORAL JIVE, RON... WE AIN'T--
I'VE TOLD YOU TO ADDRESS ME AS GENERAL, MISTER!
WE'RE THE ADVANCE FORCE OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY... AND DISCIPLINE IS VITAL IF WE'RE TO DEFEAT THE CAPITALISTIC SCUM THAT RULE THIS COUNTRY!
OKAY... OKAY...! SO I F-FORGOT ... GENERAL!
IF YOU WEREN'T AN EXPERT AT DEMOLITIONS, I'D NEVER HAVE PERMITTED A THRILL-SEEKER LIKE YOU TO JOIN OUR CAUSE!
TICK
TICK
TICK
HEY, RO-I MEAN, GENERAL-- THAT COUPLE COMING DOWN THE STREET... SHOULDN'T WE WARN THEM ABOUT--
NO TIME!
BESIDES, THEY LOOK LIKE MEMBERS OF THE RULING CLASS!
LET'S GO, SISTERS--
BECAUSE IN ABOUT TWO MINUTES THAT CAPITALIST-OWNED DEPARTMENT STORE IS GOING TO GO...
4
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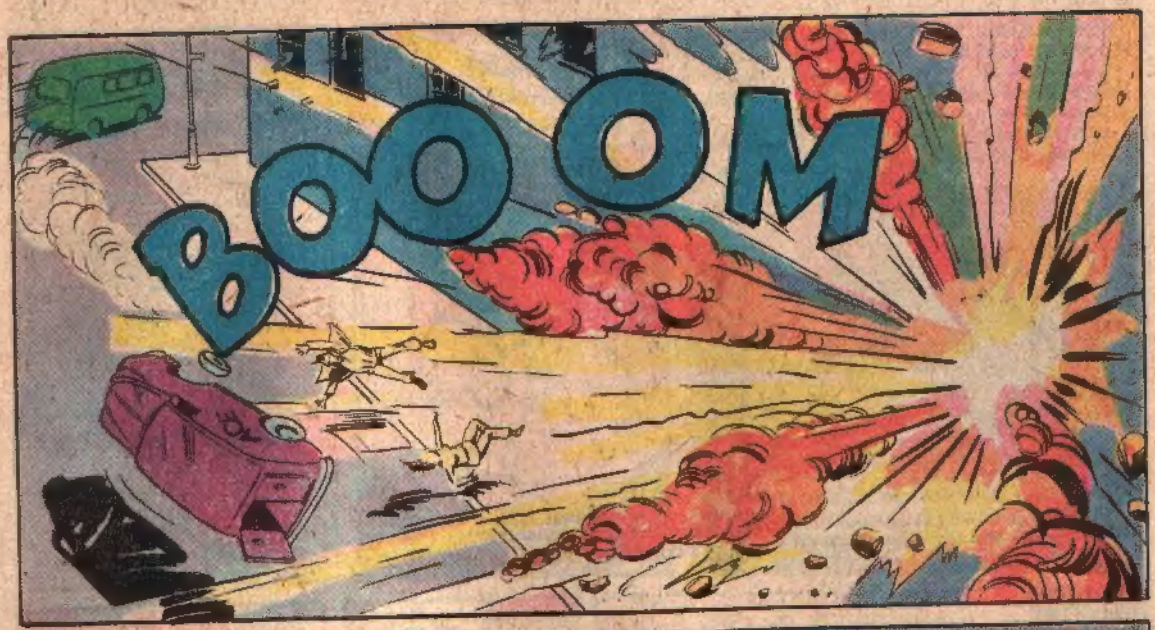
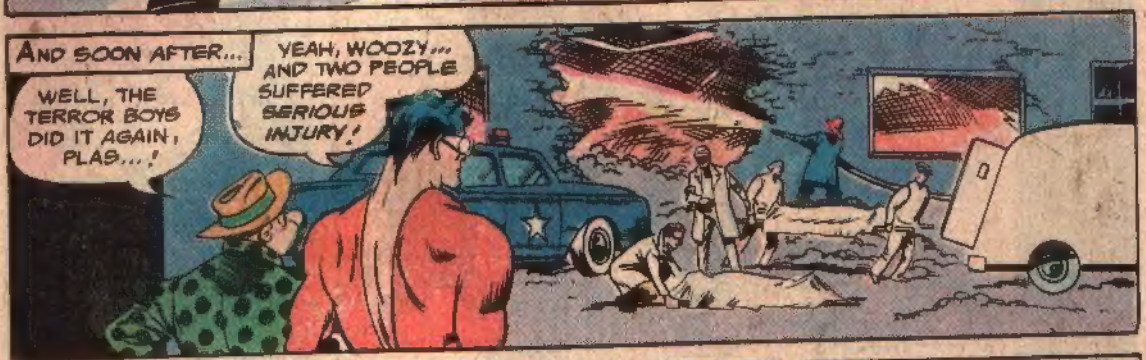
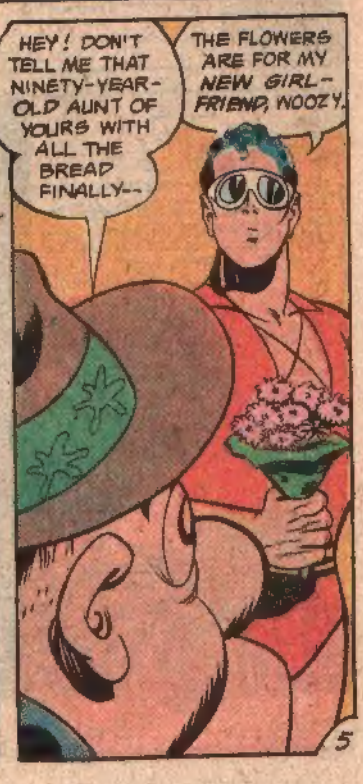
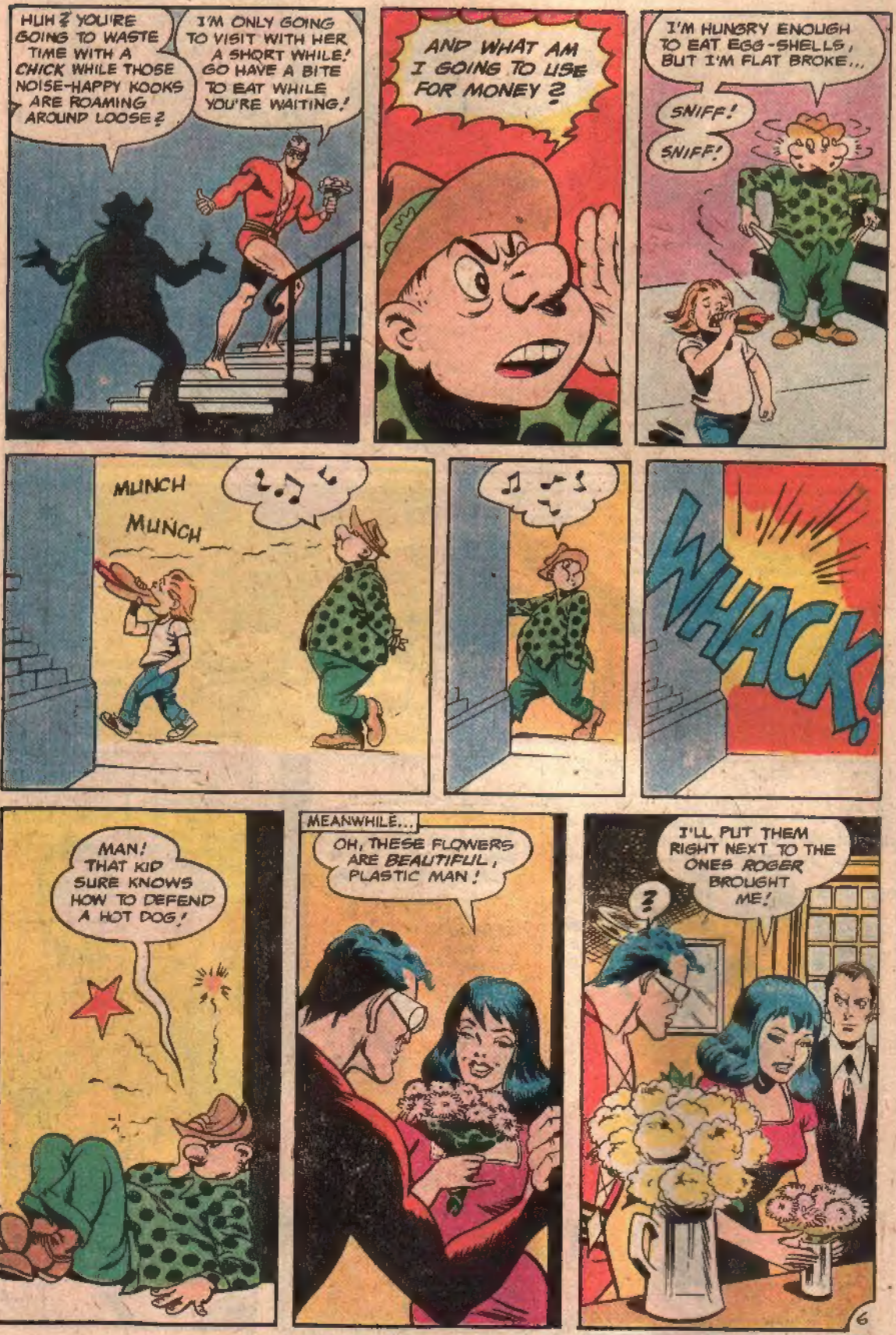

BOOOM


AND SOON AFTER...
WELL, THE TERROR BOYS DID IT AGAIN, PLAS...!
YEAH, WOOZY... AND TWO PEOPLE SUFFERED SERIOUS INJURY!

THAT'S NOT AS BAD AS BEFORE!
THE LAST BOMB THESE LOONIES PLANTED WAS IN A FACTORY... AND SIX EMPLOYEES GOT A FREE TRIP TO THE MOON!
IF ONLY WE COULD GET A LEAD ON THOSE UNDER-GROUND TERMITES!

??
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO GET BUSY HUNTING DOWN THOSE BOMB DUDES, PLAS...
WHAT'S WITH THE FLOWERS?


HEY! DON'T TELL ME THAT NINETY-YEAR-OLD AUNT OF YOURS WITH ALL THE BREAD FINALLY--
THE FLOWERS ARE FOR MY NEW GIRL-FRIEND, WOOZY.


HUH? YOU'RE GOING TO WASTE TIME WITH A CHICK WHILE THOSE NOISE-HAPPY KOOKS ARE ROAMING AROUND LOOSE?
I'M ONLY GOING TO VISIT WITH HER A SHORT WHILE! GO HAVE A BITE TO EAT WHILE YOU'RE WAITING!
AND WHAT AM I GOING TO USE FOR MONEY?
I'M HUNGRY ENOUGH TO EAT EGG-SHELLS, BUT I'M FLAT BROKE...
SNIFF!
SNIFF!
MUNCH
MUNCH
WHACK!
MAN! THAT KID SURE KNOWS HOW TO DEFEND A HOT DOG!
MEANWHILE...
OH, THESE FLOWERS ARE BEAUTIFUL, PLASTIC MAN!
?
I'LL PUT THEM RIGHT NEXT TO THE ONES ROGER BROUGHT ME!

ANNOYED AT LEARNING HE HAS A RIVAL, PLASTIC MAN SHORTENS HIS VISIT...
I TOLD DOLLY I'D STOP BY TO SEE HER TONIGHT...
SO WHY'D SHE INVITE THAT CREEP OVER?
BUSY CURSING HIS BAD FORTUNE --AND TAKING BACK HIS FLOWERS--
?
--THE USUALLY ALERT CRIME FIGHTER FAILS TO NOTICE A VAN SLOWING TO A HALT OUTSIDE HIS UNFAITHFUL LOVED ONE'S APARTMENT BUILDING...
NOR IS HE AWARE THAT THE TWO MEN WHO STEP FROM THE VEHICLE ARE THE HEAVY TERRORISTS HE HAS BEEN VAINLY SEARCHING FOR...!
I DON'T DIG IT, GENERAL...
WE WERE GOING TO SPLIT AFTER BOMBING THE DEPARTMENT STORE...
SO WHY'RE WE STOPPING NOW TO PUT THE SNATCH ON THIS CHICK CALLED DOLLY?
BECAUSE HER FATHER IS WILLIE WILE!
WILLIE WILE...
EXACTLY!
THE BANK ROBBER?
AND SINCE ALL OUR ATTEMPTS AT ROBBING BANKS HAVE HAD POOR RESULTS...
I FELT IT IS TIME WE BROUGHT IN AN EXPERT TO ASSIST US IN OUR NEXT ENDEAVOR!
AND WE'RE GOING TO SNATCH HIS DAUGHTER TO INSURE HIS COOPERATION, HUH?
MAN! THAT'S A DYNAMITE IDEA!
OF COURSE IT IS!
BLAM!
7

STAND ASIDE, MISTER! THAT YOUNG LADY IS TO BECOME A PRISONER OF WAR!
HEY, COME ON, NOW...
W-WHAT KIND OF A GAG IS THIS?
LET'S GO, PRETTY MOMMA...!
SET YOUR FILTHY PAWS OFF HER--!
YOU WERE WARNED NOT TO INTERFERE, MISTER!
CRASH
WHILE JUST TWO CITY BLOCKS AWAY...
??
WHAT'S WRONG, PLAS? YOU LOOK LIKE A GUY WITHOUT HANDS WHO JUST CAME OFF A DATE WITH RAQUEL WELCH!
AW, I--
AAIEEE
WHAT WAS THAT?
GREAT GUNS!
SOMEONE HAS FALLEN OUT A WINDOW!
WHEW!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
SW-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O
PLOP
HUH?
IT'S HIM!
OF COURSE IT IS! I MEAN, IT SURE AIN'T A HER!
I MEAN HE'S THE DUDE WHO WAS COURTING MY GIRL!
NO KIDDING?
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE LET THE TURKEY BOUNCE A FEW TIMES BEFORE YOU CAUGHT HIM!
8
CONTINUED ON 35¢ PAGE FOLLOWING

LET'S MOVE IT, WOOZY!
THAT GUY FALLING OUT THE WINDOW MAY MEAN DOLLY IS IN SOME SORT OF TROUBLE!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, PLAS!
UH-OH... WE'VE GOT TROUBLE, GENERAL! LOOK WHO'S STRETCHING TOWARD US!
REMAIN CALM, CORPORAL! WE CAN EASILY MAKE IT TO OUR VEHICLE BEFORE HE REACHES US!
A-A-I-I-E-E-E!!
HO! I UNDERESTIMATED THE ENEMY!
WHAM!
ENOUGH, PIG!
YOU HAVE HAD YOUR MOMENT OF GLORY... NOW I COMMAND YOU TO RELEASE MY CORPORAL...
...OR WATCH THE SWIFT EXECUTION OF A PRETTY YOUNG PRISONER!

WE AREN'T GOING TO JUST STAND HERE WHILE THOSE RATS MAKE OFF WITH YOUR GIRL, ARE WE, PARTNER?
STAY PUT, WOOZY! WE CAN'T MOVE IN ON THEM WITHOUT ENDANGERING DOLLY!
OKAY... NOW I'LL FOLLOW VIA THE ROOFTOPS... AND WAIT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO JUMP THEM!
RIGHT!
MEANWHILE...
I'LL REPORT THE ABDUCTION TO THE POLICE AND THE F.B.I.!
PRESENTLY...
HEY, SERGEANT...
A GIRL WAS KIDNAPPED ON CHRISTOPHER STREET BY TWO THUGS AND PLASTIC MAN IS PRESENTLY PURSUING THEM...
Y-YEAH! BUT H-HOW--
MISS SNOOPBONE SAW IT ALL HAPPEN FROM HER APARTMENT WINDOW ON ELM STREET!
BUT ELM STREET IS NINE BLOCKS AWAY FROM CHRISTOPHER STREET...
HOW COULD SHE...
HOW COULD SHE WHAT?
NEVER MIND!
CONTINUED ON 57TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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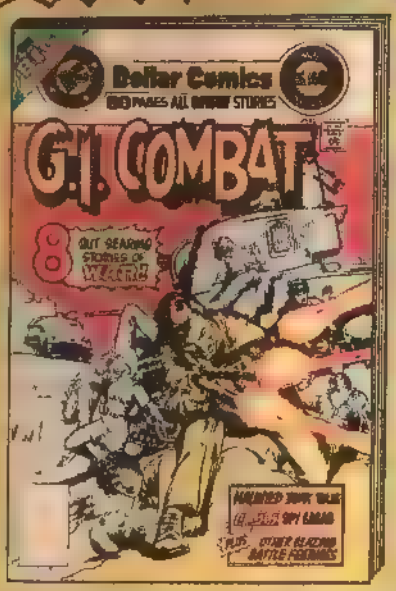

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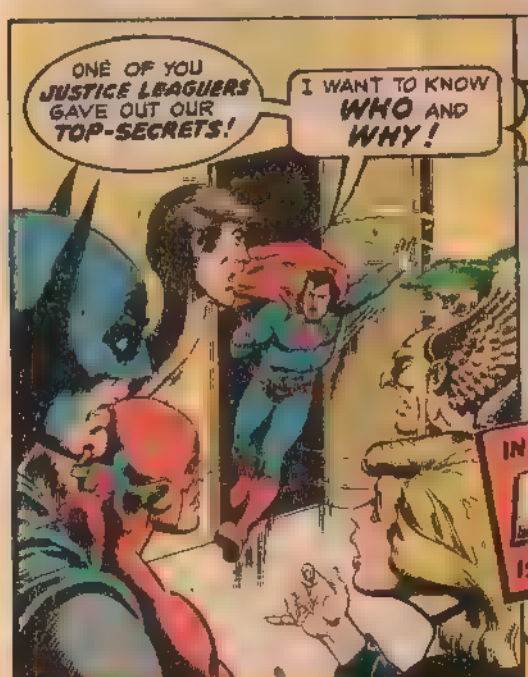

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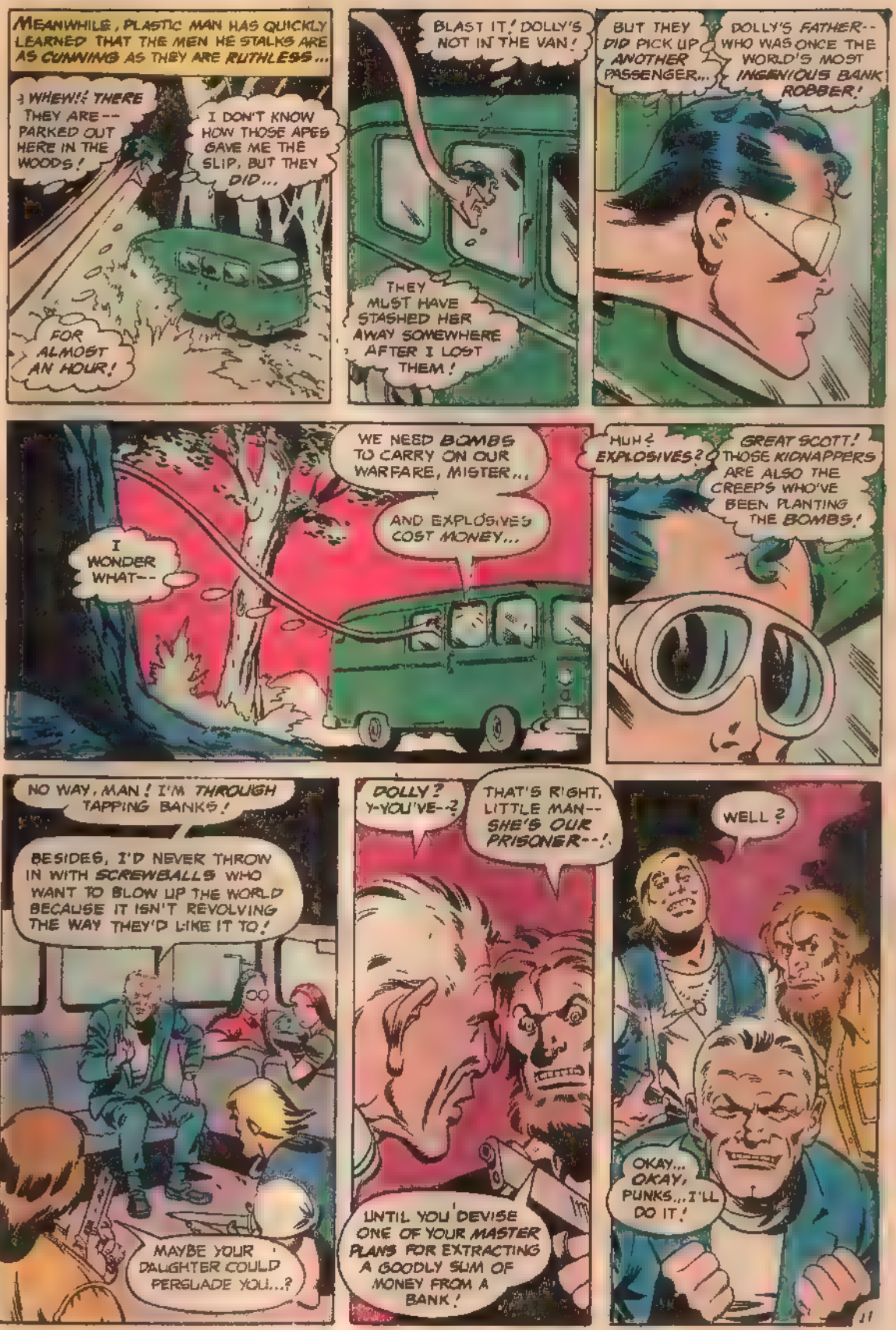

MEANWHILE, PLASTIC MAN HAS QUICKLY LEARNED THAT THE MEN HE STALKS ARE AS CUNNING AS THEY ARE RUTHLESS...
WHEW!! THERE THEY ARE -- PARKED OUT HERE IN THE WOODS!
I DON'T KNOW HOW THOSE APES GAVE ME THE SLIP, BUT THEY DID...
FOR ALMOST AN HOUR!
BLAST IT! DOLLY'S NOT IN THE VAN!
THEY MUST HAVE STASHED HER AWAY SOMEWHERE AFTER I LOST THEM!
BUT THEY DID PICK UP ANOTHER PASSENGER...
DOLLY'S FATHER -- WHO WAS ONCE THE WORLD'S MOST INGENIOUS BANK ROBBER!
I WONDER WHAT--
WE NEED BOMBS TO CARRY ON OUR WARFARE, MISTER...
AND EXPLOSIVES COST MONEY...
HUH? EXPLOSIVES?
GREAT SCOTT! THOSE KIDNAPPERS ARE ALSO THE CREEPS WHO'VE BEEN PLANTING THE BOMBS!
NO WAY, MAN! I'M THROUGH TAPPING BANKS!
BESIDES, I'D NEVER THROW IN WITH SCREWBALLS WHO WANT TO BLOW UP THE WORLD BECAUSE IT ISN'T REVOLVING THE WAY THEY'D LIKE IT TO!
MAYBE YOUR DAUGHTER COULD PERSUADE YOU...?
DOLLY? Y-YOU'VE--?
THAT'S RIGHT, LITTLE MAN -- SHE'S OUR PRISONER--!
UNTIL YOU DEVISE ONE OF YOUR MASTER PLANS FOR EXTRACTING A GOODLY SUM OF MONEY FROM A BANK!
WELL?
OKAY... OKAY, PUNKS... I'LL DO IT!

PLASTIC MAN CONTINUES TO KEEP THE VEHICLES OCCUPANTS UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE...THEN TWO DAYS LATER--ON THE EVE OF THE ROBBERY WILLIE HAS BEEN FORCED TO MASTER-MIND...
ACCORDING TO WHAT I'VE HEARD, THEY'RE GOING TO HIT THE BANK IN THE MORNING!
GOOD! EVERYONE'S ASLEEP!
NOW I CAN GET TO WORK!
THOSE CREEPS HAVE BEEN BUSY CAMOUFLAGING THEIR VAN AND MAKING IT RESEMBLE A BOMB SQUAD VEHICLE!
POLICE BOMB SQUAD
IT MUST BE PART OF WILLIE'S PLAN!
WELL, I'VE A SCHEME OF MY OWN!
I'M GOING TO REPLACE THIS RUBBER TIRE WITH A HIGH GRADE PLASTIC...
SOON AFTER..
...ME!
AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING--AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARIES HAVE DISCOVERED THEIR NEW "TIRE"...
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! HOW COULD A TIRE CHANGE COLOR?
NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW... BUT I'D BETTER CHECK TO SEE IF IT HAS ENOUGH AIR!
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!
GOOD! IT'S FIRM ENOUGH!
DIRTY
12
CONTINUED ON 35P PAGE FOLLOWING

AND NOW, STILL ANOTHER MESSAGE OF UNTOLD IMPORTANCE FROM OUR PRODUCT PUBLISHER!!

Don't panic. We're going to have a brief quiz. It will be painless. You cannot fail

Do not think you can slip any sly lies by. This test is printed on a chemically treated paper; when it's held under the proper Detective Comics light it turns true blue if you're honest and fink pink if you're not.

O.K. Here we go. When you saw all those ads this month for Dollar Comics, you said:

A. "Boy, this is the greatest thing in comics since Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster gave Krypton the old heave-ho and created Superman."

B. "Rip-off! Rip-off! Rip-off! **No** comic is worth a buck."

Oh, those of you who saw the light and answered **A**—all of you, Crusaders, caped and uncaped in the cause of comicdom, DC takes you to its heart.

Did you answer **B**? Be not ashamed. DC embraces you too. Your response is forgiveable, oh unenlightened ones. But harken to these following words and learn. The truth shall set you free.

Many years ago, there were books of such verve and imagination that historians later called that time Comics' Golden Age. The name was truly justified. These comics were **64 pages** long. And to millions of people who bought them, they were worth their weight in gold-or silver anyway, because comics cost a dime. And so did **Time Magazine** and **Life Magazine.** In fact, the **best** newsstand publications of the day all cost about ten cents and many cost less. Find a newsdealer who's been around for thirty or forty years and ask him yourself. He'll tell you. He was thrilled to carry comics. Every **Superman** he sold (and he sold plenty) meant as much profit to him as the sale of one copy of **Life.** But that was years ago. How about today?

Fellow comic reader, things are bleak. Check it out yourself.

How many newsdealers can you find who are really happy to carry comics? In fact, how many newsdealers can you find who carry comics at all?

What, you rightfully ask, has gone wrong? For the answer, let us contemplate two facts of life:

1. Since 1938, the price of living has gone up. A lot. The best things in life like movies cost fourteen times more today than they did thirty years ago.
2. If you've been in business since 1938 and you haven't raised your prices by now, then you were out of business twenty years ago.

Reasonable, huh? All right. Now try to find somewhere, somehow even the smallest semblance of a logical explanation for this second set of facts:

1938-1948: All magazines raise their prices. **Comics stay at 10 cents.**

1948-1958: Another Decade. Another whopping ten years of higher printing rates and soaring printing costs. All non-comic magazines—doing what they have to do—raise their price. Comics **remain at 10 cents.**

It took comics four more years to make the truly daring move. In 1962, we leapt boldly with both feet from a measly dime to a mind-boggling 12 cents. A 20 percent increase! What courage! What hindsight! No one seemed to notice that all the magazines with which we'd once been so proudly displayed were now selling at 3,4 and 5 times their original price.

You know the rest. How we went up from 12 cents to 15 to 20 to 25 and finally, this past year, to 30. It's not hard to read the future.

The problem is clear. Price-wise, comics are still 25 years behind the times. Even with a 30-cents cover price, there are still fewer newsdealers who **want** to carry us. And who can blame them?

And, meanwhile what's happened to all of us guys who love comics? We're getting the short-end of the stick. Each year we're paying more money for comics with fewer pages and more reprints.

How can we put a stop to it all? How can we get back to those halcyon days of **64 pages** of all new stories, **64 pages** of all new art?

How can we make sure that you, our loyal fans, get a fair shake? How can we get those thousands of turned-off dealers turned-on again?

With DC's brand new **Dollar Comics!**

Listen to this brighter picture:

- Newsdealers are already preparing a little nest for us on their magazine racks. For the first time in history, they can make more money selling **World's Finest** than they can selling **Time.**
- You will be getting **80 page comics** with **all new** stories and **all new** art.
- Your Bowmar Brain will reveal that DC's **Dollar Comics** give you nearly 4 regular comics for the price of 3. They are clearly comics' best buy.

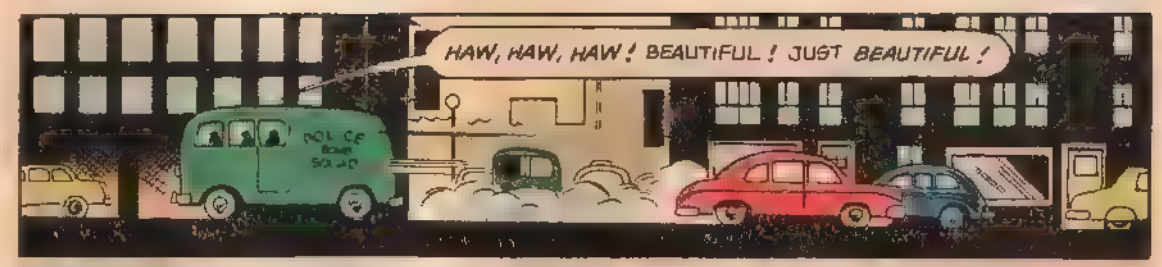
We believe that our **Dollar Comics** are the comics of the future. After all, what could be better than getting more all new stories for your money?

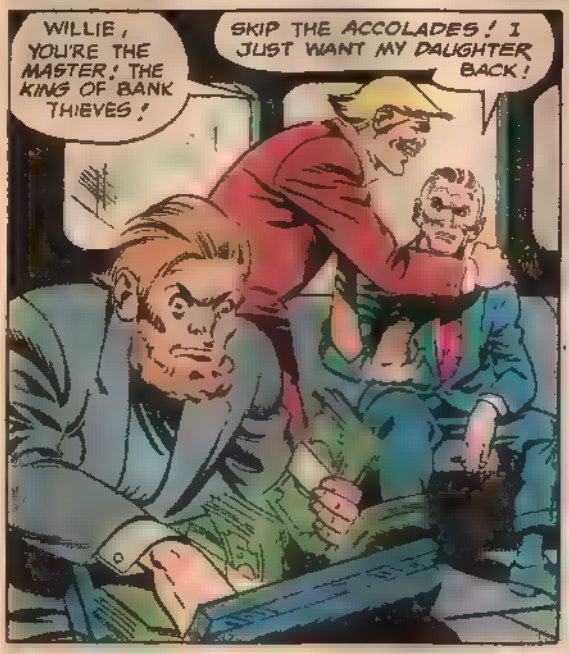
All of you out there—take care.

Jenette

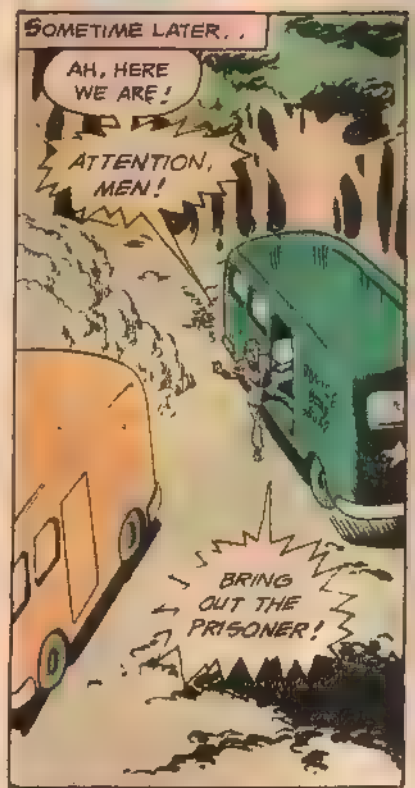
SOON AFTER ... AS THE VAN TRAVELS TO THE CITY, THEN PARKS OUTSIDE THE BANK...
OKAY, GIRLS, YOU KNOW WILLIE'S PLAN...
RIGHT! YOU THREE ARE GOING TO ENTER THE BANK FIRST, THEN WE'RE GOING TO WAIT FIVE MINUTES, PUT ON OUR "BOMB PROTECTION" OUTFITS, AND FOLLOW AFTER YOU!
;WHEW; THIS BLASTED TRUCK IS HEAVY!
CORRECT... ALL RIGHT, LEAD THE WAY, CORPORAL!
YEAH... FIRST I WANT TO CHECK MY PHONY BADGE AND I.D.--!
PRESENTLY...
OH, GUARD...!
YES, SIR?
WE'RE DETECTIVES FROM THE BOMB SQUAD... I'M LIEUTENANT REILLY...!
BOMB SQUAD?
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN. WE DON'T WANT TO ALARM ANYONE!
A TIP CAME INTO OUR PRECINCT ABOUT AN EXPLOSIVE HAVING BEEN PLANTED SOMEWHERE IN THIS BANK...!
;GULP!;
W-WHAT S-SHOULD WE DO, LIEUTENANT?
YOU'RE TO NOTIFY ALL THE EMPLOYEES -- THE OTHER GUARD -- AND THE CUSTOMERS... TO LEAVE THE PREMISES IMMEDIATELY...!
BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THE BOMB -- WE DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY PANIC!
NO... OF C-COURSE NOT!
I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S AN ORDERLY EVACUATION, SIR!

FINE! AFTER THE BANK IS CLEARED, YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATE HAD BETTER STAND AT THE ENTRANCE TO PREVENT ANYONE FROM COMING IN!
RIGHT!
HEY, BILL!
AND SOON AFTER...
OH, MAN! THIS IS BEAUTIFUL! WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE BANK TO OURSELVES!
AND NOW WILLIE IS TAKING THE BANK MANAGER TO OPEN THE VAULT!
LOOK! HERE COME THE CHICKS IN THEIR "BOMB PROTECTION" OUTFITS!
COME! LET'S BEGIN LOADING OURSELVES UP WITH THE SPOILS!
AND SHORTLY--
DID EVERYONE STUFF ALL THE BILLS THEY CAN CARRY INSIDE THEIR CLOTHES?
YEAH! AND I TIED UP THE BANK MANAGER!
THEN WE'RE READY TO LEAVE!
YOU FIRST, WILLIE!
D-DID YOU FIND IT, L-LIEUTENANT?
NAW! IT WAS A FALSE ALARM!
BUT THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION!


HAW, HAW, HAW! BEAUTIFUL! JUST BEAUTIFUL!


WILLIE, YOU'RE THE MASTER! THE KING OF BANK THIEVES!
SKIP THE ACCOLADES! I JUST WANT MY DAUGHTER BACK!

HAVE PATIENCE! SHE'S BEING HELD BY TWO OF MY SOLDIERS IN ANOTHER VAN OUTSIDE THE CITY!
WE'RE PROCEEDING IN THAT DIRECTION NOW!


SOMETIME LATER..
AH, HERE WE ARE!
ATTENTION, MEN!
BRING OUT THE PRISONER!

DAD!
THERE YOU ARE, WILLIE! WE'VE REUNITED YOU WITH YOUR DAUGHTER AS PROMISED!
... NOW YOU CAN BOTH DIE TOGETHER!

I FIGURED YOU'D DO A DOUBLE-CROSS NUMBER AFTER YOU GOT YOUR MONEY, PUNK!
YES, I IMAGINE A CLEVER MAN LIKE YOU WOULD KNOW SUCH ACTION WAS NECESSARY AFTER YOUR USEFULNESS TO US ENDED...!
THEREFORE--
BLAM
PLUNK
THUD!
HIS USEFULNESS TO YOU MAY HAVE ENDED, PRIVATE... BUT IT'S JUST BEGINNING FOR ME!
PLASTIC MAN!
POW!
:CHOKE!:
C'MON, WILLIE! YOU'RE GREAT AT KNOCKING OVER BANKS...
...LET'S SEE YOU DO A LITTLE KNOCKING OVER OF CREEPS!
EEEGK!
JUST WATCH ME, PLASTIC MAN!
WHACK!
AIEEE!
AT THAT MOMENT--HIGH ABOVE THE MELEE ON THE GROUND...
PUTT!
IT'S MY PAL, PLASTIC MAN!
C'MON, OFFICER! GET THIS TIN PIDGEON DOWN THERE BEFORE THE FIGHT IS OVER!
PUTT!
PUTT!
WHACK! POW
OKAY, WOOZY!
PUTT! PUTT! PUTT!
NUTS! WE'RE TOO LATE! PLASTIC MAN HAS WHACKED OUT THE WHOLE MOB!
YOU MEAN PLASTIC MAN AND WILLIE WILE!
16
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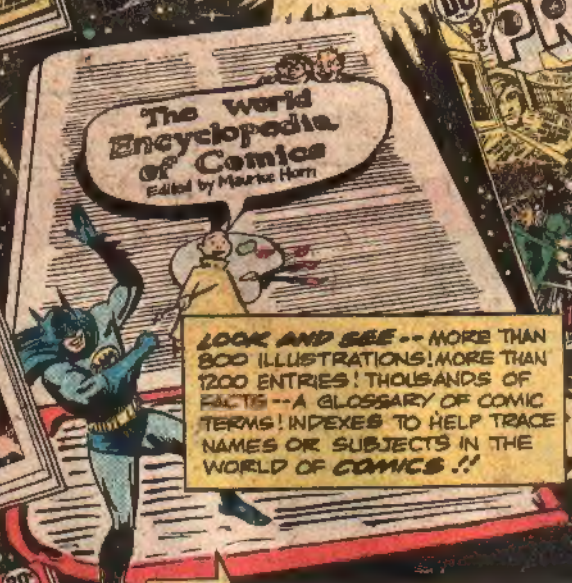

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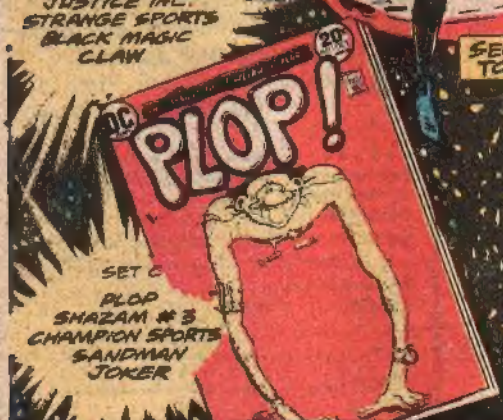

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BUT WE JUST GOT A RADIO REPORT THAT SAID IT WAS WILLIE WHO LED THE GANG ON THE BANK JOB, PLASTIC MAN!
WELL, THE REPORT WAS WRONG!
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO THE CHIEF LATER!
SMACK
OH, PLASTIC MAN... YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
HMM... I THINK I'LL RUSH BACK TO THE CITY AND SELL THE BOMBERS BEING CAPTURED STORY TO A NEWSPAPER!
UH... ARE WE GOING TO... GET TOGETHER TONIGHT, DOLLY?
NOT TONIGHT, BABY!
I SEE ROGER ON TUESDAYS!
HUH? WELL, HOW ABOUT TOMORROW!
TOM HAS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, LOVER!
LATER... BACK IN THE CITY...
WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO, WOOZY!
I TRIED TO BE THE FIRST TO SELL AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF YOUR CAPTURING THE BOMBERS TO A NEWSPAPER, PLAS...!
AND DID THEY BUY IT?
DAILY GLOBE
NOPE, I WAS TOO LATE... SOMEBODY BEAT ME TO IT!
17
END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN MARCH

PLASTIC POSTCARDS

L-620

Dear Plastic People,

Judging from most of the letters printed in your letters column so far it seems almost mandatory that one begin his comments by judging your **PLASTIC MAN** against Jack Coles efforts of years past (which, from what I've heard, must have been fantastic!). But, I must admit that I'm totally unfamiliar with Cole's **PM** so I must struggle along as best I can by just talking about **PLAS** (not PLAZ, right?) as I see him today.

And just how is he today?

Well, how about fantastic? There are too few comics today that are strictly just for fun, and there are even fewer fun super-heroes that are really funny. **PLASTIC MAN** is here to show people that it can be done . . . and done well. First of all, there is the beautifully rendered art of Ramona Fradon. With her characterizations she shows her keen grasp of the type of art needed to make a comic such as **PLASTIC MAN** work. Her deliberately exaggerated poses and facial expressions on the second string characters (Woozy, the Chief, Sundae, and Foyle) are as top notch as is her fluid handling of old stretcho himself.

Steve Skeates' stories are perfectly suited to **PLAS**. He manages to keep the plots so off-beat and kooky, and his villains so outrageous, that one is always able to read each issue knowing that it was written solely for the joy of doing it and nothing else (except getting paid for it, of course!).

In my opinion, good, fun super-hero books seem to be about the most difficult comics to write and produce. All I can say is, best wishes on this book and I hope it runs for many a year. Just keep the quality of **PLASTIC MAN** as high as it has been up till now and you shouldn't have any problems whatsoever!

Larry Cummings
Woodlawn Ave.
Oil City, Pa. 16301

It took Steve Skeates to make *PLASTIC MAN* what he is today, and now it's up to John Albano to keep him there! John is here to stay on *PLAS* while Steve has moved on to other things. And, judging by his first efforts on the *Stretchable Sleuth*, he's going to do one heck of a job (and we ain't stretching the truth either!).

Dear Joe,

PLASTIC MAN #15, "The Snuffer", was, as usual, a good story. The return of Carrotman was more than welcome and the way you used him to help snuff out the Snuffer was an excellent way to use him.

As usual, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith did a bang-up job on the art, while Steve Skeates' script was full of humor and everything that makes **PLAS** great!

But enough compliments for now. I also have some requests to make of you. Back in **PLASTIC MAN** #13 Robby Reed made a comeback as a super-villain. How's about having him come back again, but this time as a changeable super-hero? He'd be a nice addition to the **PLAS**-family. Also, are there any plans for a Giant-sized, 50c, **PLASTIC MAN**?

Mike Grattan
1961 Warren Ct.
Merced, Ca. 95340

Another Robby Reed comeback? It's a thought . . . and who can ever tell what the future will hold! As for a giant-sized *PLAS*, well, as things stand right now, there is no such book in the works. However, things are always changing around here, so who knows? And in case you want to keep up with all the latest news from DC, you can call the new DC DIRECT CURRENTS HOTLINE. The HOTLINE is a toll-free service to our readers that brings you the latest news from our writers, artists and editors each and every week, with new 45 second messages beginning every Monday. Nationally (everywhere but Hawaii, Alaska and New York State) the phone number is 800-223-7760 and you can reach us 24 hours a day. In New York, the number is 800-442-8108, from noon to mid-night. Remember, this new service is to keep you, our readers, up to date on what's going on in the world of DC Comics, so use it. By the way, if you call and get a busy signal, hang up and try again later. We wouldn't want you to miss anything!

Dear Joe,

Having been a fan of **PLASTIC MAN** for a while (two issues!) I just want to say that I think you're doing a great job! There's humor, action and mystery present in each and every issue. Of course, the one thing you couldn't do without is the humor. **PLASTIC MAN** is a funny super-hero because, face it, how much dignity could he have stretching himself out like that all the time?

Another thing that **PLAS** couldn't do without is Ramona Fradon. Make sure she stays on the book, regardless of the costs! As far as I'm concerned, she's the only artist that can draw **PLASTIC MAN** the way he needs to be drawn. Steve Skeates has a certain type of humor that fits **PLAS** as well as Ramona's art. The interchanges between **PLAS** and the rest of the cast of characters are priceless!

Gregg Steele
304 Ramblewood Pl.
Longview, Texas 75601

We don't intend to let Ramona escape our greedy clutches, Gregg. After all, it seems, judging from your letters, that Ramona Fradon's art is the one thing that everybody agrees is great! Whatever you think, why not write us and let us know. The address is: PLASTIC POSTCARDS, DC COMICS, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. See you in sixty, *PLAS*-fans!

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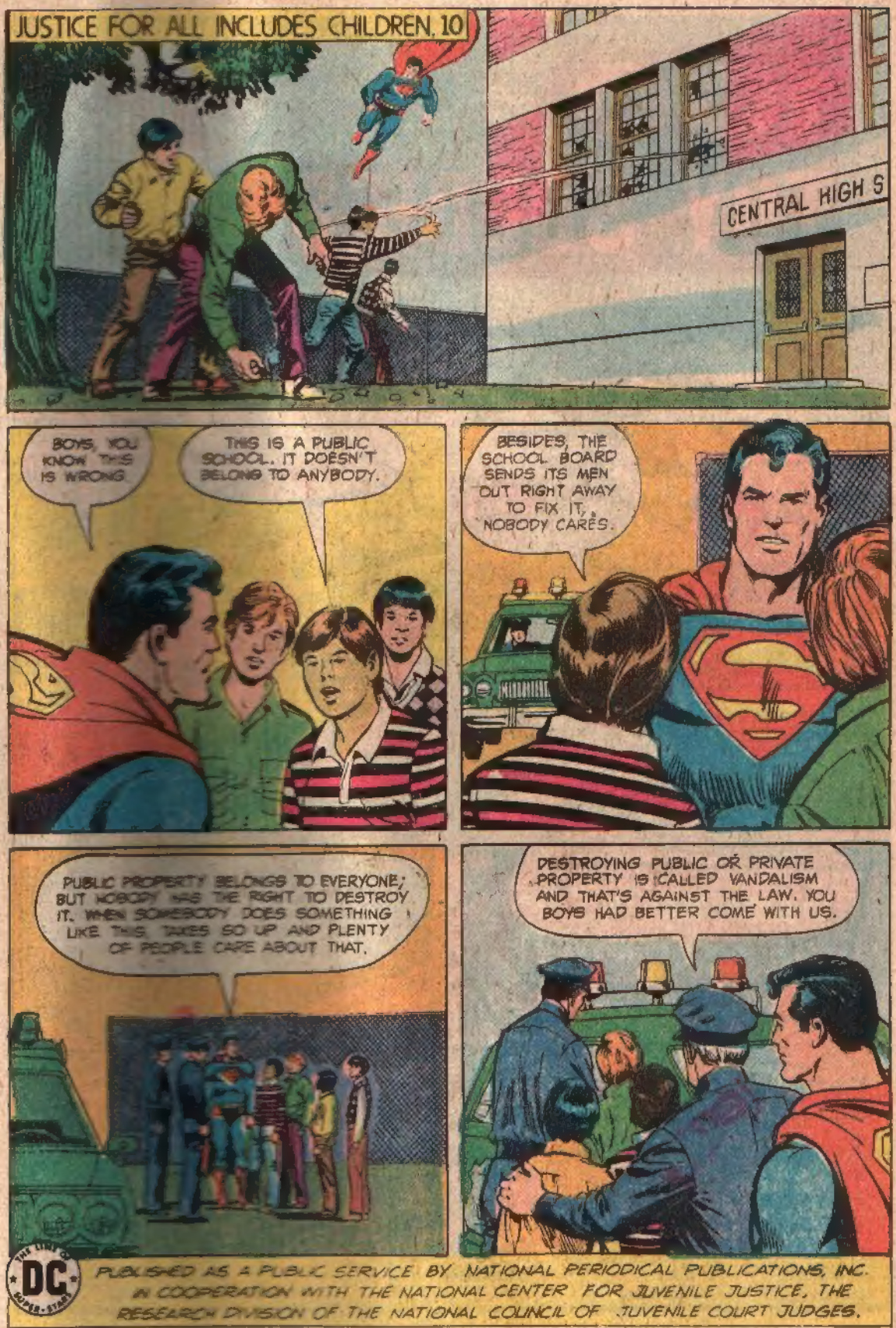
JUSTICE FOR ALL INCLUDES CHILDREN, 10
CENTRAL HIGH S
BOYS, YOU KNOW THIS IS WRONG.
THIS IS A PUBLIC SCHOOL. IT DOESN'T BELONG TO ANYBODY.
BESIDES, THE SCHOOL BOARD SENDS ITS MEN OUT RIGHT AWAY TO FIX IT, NOBODY CARES.
PUBLIC PROPERTY BELONGS TO EVERYONE; BUT NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO DESTROY IT. WHEN SOMEBODY DOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS, TAXES GO UP AND PLENTY OF PEOPLE CARE ABOUT THAT.
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